

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 4, 2005. 1 to 6, 10 to 12, 16 to 18 and 20 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 10 to 12, 16 and 17 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1 to 6, 12, 18 and 20 are allowed, and for the indication that Claims 10, 11, 16 and 17 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

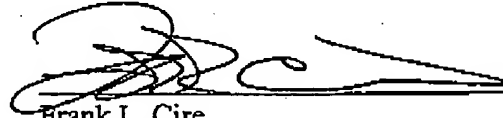
Claims 7, 8, 13, 14, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,690,911 (Yamagishi). Claims 9 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamagishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6758471 (Hirako). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 11, 16 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, Claims 7 to 9, 13 to 15, 19 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter in order to secure an earlier allowance of the present application. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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